

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 291505Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0498

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RH
SUBJ: EMBASSY TERMINATES HAGAN CONTACTS

REF: PRETORIA 1765

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS TERMINATED CONTACTS WITH HAGAN BECAUSE HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PRESENTING DISTORTED INFORMATION TO HIS RHODESIAN CONTACTS, AS EVIDENCED BY LETTER HE SUPPLIED FROM JACK MUSSET TO IAN SMITH. HAGAN PLANNING VISIT TO U.S. IN EARLY MAY AND MIGHT CONCEIVABLY SEEK CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT THOUGH NOT ENCOURAGED BY EMBASSY.

2. ON APRIL 15 HAGAN, THROUGH CONGEN JOHANNESBURG, SENT OIC PRETORIA A PHOTOCOPY OF HANDWRITTEN NOTE DESCRIBED AS "SECOND LETTER" SENT BY JACK MUSSET TO IAN SMITH ON APRIL 12. (FIRST LETTER WAS THAT MENTIONED PARA 4 REFTEL.) IN VIEW OF SERIOUS DISTORTIONS IN LETTER (TEXT BELOW) INDICATING THAT HAGAN FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO EMBASSY STATEMENTS AND VIEWS THAT WERE NEVER EXPRESSED, OIC PRETORIA WAS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM HAGAN THAT EMBASSY WANTED NO FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM, THAT U.S. POLICY ON RHODESIA WAS EXPRESSED ONLY IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, AND THAT HE SHOULD SET RECORD STRAIGHT WITH HIS RHODESIAN CONTACTS. OIC DID SO ON APRIL 26. ON APRIL 28 HAGAN SENT BRIEF NOTE TO OIC IN PRETORIA TO SAY HE IS PLANNING TO LEAVE FOR THE U.S. ON MAY 5 OR 6 AND TO
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BE IN WASHINGTON DURING WEEK OF MAY 10. HE WROTE THAT

HE WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK TO DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WHILE THERE, BUT OIC MADE NO RESPONSE TO THIS POINT. HE MIGHT NONETHELESS ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT ON HIS OWN WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

3. TEXT OF MUSSET LETTER DATED APRIL 12 READS:

QUOTE. DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

MR. HAGAN HAS JUST CALLED IN TO SEE ME AND SAID HE HAS BEEN TO THE EMBASSY IN PRETORIA AND TYE ARE GIVING THE MATTER THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. THEY BELIEVE THAT WASHINGTON IF AGREEABLE COULD SEND AN EMISSARY HERE TO ARRIVE BEFORE DR. KISSINGER ARRIVES. HIS ITINERARY HAS AS TODAY NOT BEEN FINALIZED BUT HE WILL BE IN AFRICA BEFORE THE END OF APRIL. THIS IS NOW A POLITICAL DECISION AND OUR PROBLEM IS GETTING A VERY HIGH PRIORITY.

MR. HAGAN HAS SAID THAT THEY KNOW THAT THE COUNTRIES IN AFRICA THAT DR. KISSINGER IS VISITING, PARTICULARLY THE 4 PRESIDENTS AND DR. BANDA PREFER A MILITARY CONFRONTATION IF THERE IS NO SETTLEMENT.

HE REEMPHASIZED THAT HOT PURSUIT COULD LEAD TO STAGED-IN AIR ATTACKS ON US. THEY (USA) BELIEVED THAT THERE COULD BE A WAY OF CONCLUDING A DEAL IF THERE WERE NEW FACES AT THE TABLE. INSTEAD OF ONLY BRITAIN AND RHODESIA, SAY NOW THE USA AND PERHAPS S. AFRICA.

I HAVE GIVEN MR. HAGAN MY ADDRESS AT PORT ELIZABETH WHERE IF THERE IS ANY REACTION FROM WASHINGTON HE WILL CONTACT ME.

I AM SORRY THIS IS THE ONLY PAPER I HAVE WITH ME AND I LEAVE EARLY TOMORROW EVENING.

I WILL GET JOHN ERASMUS TO SEND THIS OFF TOMORROW. I HAD JUST MISSED THE COURIER WHO TOOK UP THE INITIAL REPORT. YOUR SINCERELY.

B.H. MUSSET UNQUOTE.

4. HAGAN HAS SO OBVIOUSLY ENGAGED IN PERSONAL DISTORTION OF EMBASSY ROLE AND ATTITUDE THAT COMPLETE BREAKOFF WAS ONLY PRUDENT COURSE. ALSO, ALTHOUGH HAGAN'S RHODESIAN CONTACT ERASMUS HAD CALLED TO MAKE APPOINTMENT TO CALL ON OIC WITH HAGAN ON APRIL 21, OIC CANCELLED APPOINTMENT AND WILL DECLINE FURTHER CONTACT WITH THAT SOURCES AS WELL. CONFIDENTIAL

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